

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1, 4 and 5, and ADD new claims 6 and 7 in accordance with the following:

1. (Currently Amended) A resin-made ball retainer for a rolling bearing, which comprises:

a ring-shaped or arcuate retainer body having inner and outer peripheral surfaces opposite to each other; and

a plurality of pockets defined in the retainer body so as to open at the inner and outer peripheral surfaces of the retainer body and spaced from each other in a direction circumferentially thereof for rollingly retaining corresponding balls therein;

wherein radial sides of an inner surface of each of the pockets that are opposite to each other in a radial direction of the ball retainer are defined as spherical ball bearing surfaces to which each ball contacts;

wherein intermediate portions of the inner surface of each pocket with respect to the radial direction are defined as circumferential non-contact surface areas ~~where~~that the corresponding ball ~~does not contact~~is prevented from contacting; and

wherein substantially all edges of the ball bearing surfaces of the inner surface of each pocket, which may contact the ball, are defined as chamfered edges.

2. (Original) The resin-made ball retainer for the rolling bearing as claimed in Claim 1, wherein portions of the inner surface of each pocket, which lie in a direction intersecting the direction of rotation of the ball retainer, are formed with intersecting oil reservoir grooves each being in the form of a generally elongated recess of a curved surface and extending in a direction radially of the ball retainer.

3. (Original) The resin-made ball retainer for the rolling bearing as claimed in Claim 1, wherein each of the pockets has an opening defined so as to open at one end of the ball retainer with respect to an axial direction thereof and wherein a bottom of the inner surface of each pocket opposite to such opening is formed with a bottom oil reservoir groove of a generally concaved shape.

4. (Currently Amended) The resin-made ball retainer for the rolling bearing as claimed in Claim 1, wherein a radial thickness of a ~~general portion of the retainer body is made small relative to a radial thickness of a portion of the retainer body adjacent each pocket is~~ greater than a radial thickness of a remaining portion of the retainer body.

5. (Currently Amended) The resin-made ball retainer for the rolling bearing as claimed in Claim 1, wherein respective portions of one axial end of the retainer body, where the corresponding pockets are defined, are each provided with a pair of projections for embracing the corresponding ball and wherein an inner surface of each of those projections defines a part of the inner surface of the respective pocket.

6. (New) A resin-made ball retainer for a rolling bearing, comprising:
a ring-shaped or arcuate retainer body having inner and outer peripheral surfaces opposite to each other; and
a plurality of pockets defined in the retainer body to open at the inner and outer peripheral surfaces of the retainer body, the pockets being spaced from each other in a circumferential direction of the retainer, rollingly retaining corresponding balls therein;
each pocket comprising
opposing fore and aft portions with respect to the circumferential direction, and
a lubricant reservoir groove disposed between the fore and aft portions and axially opposite an axial opening of the pocket;
each of the fore and aft portions comprising
a pair of ball bearing surfaces disposed at inner and outer radial edges of an internal surface of the pocket,
a non-contact surface area disposed between the ball bearing surfaces, and offset from the ball bearing surfaces, such that the corresponding ball is prevented from contacting the non-contact surface area, and

a radially disposed intersecting lubricant reservoir groove, intersecting the ball bearing surfaces and the non-contact surface area,

wherein substantially all edges of the ball bearing surfaces are chamfered, and

a radial thickness of a portion of the retainer body adjacent each ball bearing surface is greater than a radial thickness of a portion of the retainer body disposed axially outward of the lubricant reservoir groove and circumferentially between adjacent pockets.

7. (New) A resin-made ball retainer for a rolling bearing, comprising:

a ring-shaped or arcuate retainer body having inner and outer peripheral surfaces opposite to each other, and a plurality of pockets spaced from each other in a direction of travel of the retainer in the rolling bearing, rollingly retaining corresponding balls therein;

opposing pocket surface portions, disposed on the retainer body fore and aft of each pocket with respect to the direction of travel; and

each pocket surface portion comprising

a pair of ball bearing surfaces disposed at inner and outer radial edges of the pocket surface portion,

a non-contact surface area disposed between the ball bearing surfaces, and offset from the ball bearing surfaces, such that the corresponding ball is prevented from contacting the non-contact surface area when the ball contacts the pocket surface portion, and

a radially disposed intersecting lubricant reservoir groove, intersecting the ball bearing surfaces and the non-contact surface area,

wherein substantially all edges of the ball bearing surfaces are chamfered.